

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08 COME-00
SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W
-----118716 111742Z /42

R 111521Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 291
INFO USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, CU, CA, BF

SUBJ: PROPOSED HAVANA/FREEPORT HYDROFOIL SERVICE

REF: (A) 77 NASSAU 1796 (B) 77 NASSAU 1659

1. ALBERT J. MILLER, PRESIDENT, GRAND BAHAMA PORT AUTHORITY (REF A), HAS ANNOUNCED TO LOCAL NEWS MEDIA THAT CRUISE SHIP SERVICE BETWEEN FREEPORT/LUCAYA AND HAVANA MAY BECOME A REALITY EARLY THIS YEAR. MILLER REPORTS THAT THEY (PORT AUTHORITY AND LOCAL TOURISM OFFICIALS) WERE FIRST APPROACHED ABOUT THE IDEA IN OCTOBER (REF B) AND THAT HE AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM VISITED CUBA LATE LAST YEAR FOR TALKS WITH CUBAN TOURISM OFFICIALS WHO REPORTEDLY CONTINUED TO BE VERY RECEPTIVE AND ENTHUSED ABOUT THE IDEA. MILLER SAYS A FLORIDA CRUISE SHIP CONSULTING FIRM HAS BEEN RETAINED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITIES. TOGETHER THEY WILL BE WORKING ALONG WITH FREEPORT HARBOUR COMPANY PRESIDENT, CAPTAIN R. N. TYMINSKI. MILLER SAID THEIR OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO "SET UP A SYSTEM WHEREBY CANADIANS WOULD COME TO FREEPORT/LUCAYA TO SPEND A NIGHT OR TWO AND THEN TAKE A FIVE DAY CRUISE TO CUBA, AND BACK TO FREEPORT

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FOR THE FLIGHT BACK TO CANADA."

2. NEWS OF THE CRUISE SHIP SERVICE BETWEEN FREEPORT AND CUBA WAS FIRST AIRED OVER "NEWSWATCH" ON CHANNEL 11, WPLG IN MIAMI IN DECEMBER. ACCORDING TO THIS TV REPORT THE CRUISE SERVICE WAS TO RUN OUT OF MIAMI "AS AN ENDEAVOR TO MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS OF TRAVELLERS AND ALSO TO ENHANCE FIDEL

CASTRO'S PLAN OF ECONOMICALLY UPLIFTING HIS FINANCIALLY TROUBLED COUNTRY WITH THE HELP OF AN INCREASED TOURISM POPULATION. THE PLAN FROM THE STANDPOINT OF FREEPORT/LUCAYA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY SEEMS TO BE FEASIBLE AS IT WILL SATISFY THE CURIOSITY OF VISITORS WISHING TO SEE FREEPORT AND CUBA, THEREBY BUILDING UP A HEALTHY STREAM OF TOURISM."

3. EMBOFF IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MILLER IN FREEPORT JANUARY 9 AND DAVID CHAMARRO, PRESIDENT, GRAND BAHAMA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, WAS TOLD THAT THIS CRUISE SERVICE WILL BE RUN BY BAHAMAS HYDROFOIL CRUISES, 903 SOUTH AMERICAN WAY, PORT OF MIAMI, MIAMI, FLA. 33132. TEL. (305) 358 3787., WHICH HOPES TO BEGIN HYDROFOIL SERVICE BETWEEN MIAMI, FREEPORT AND NASSAU ON FEBRUARY 1. REPORTEDLY, THE HAVANA/FREEPORT RUN WOULD BEGIN AT A LATER DATE WHEN OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN MIAMI/FREEPORT/NASSAU ARE IRONED OUT.
SCHWARTZ

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